

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A disc drive for driving a disc shaped recording medium, comprising:

a base made of a single flat metal plate that is rectangular in shape;

disc rotation driving means disposed on the base for rotating a disc shaped recording medium loaded in the base;

recording and/or reading means disposed on the base for recording data on and/or reading data from the disc shaped recording medium;

guide means disposed on the base for movably supporting the recording and/or reading means between inner and outer circumferences of the disc shaped recording medium, while the disc shaped recording medium is rotated;

a feeding mechanism disposed on the base ~~for feeding~~ adapted to feed the recording and/or reading means along the guide means; ~~and~~

four receiving portions ~~for receiving~~ adapted to receive support for the base, the receiving portions being disposed symmetrically on the base with respect to a center line of the base along the direction of the movement of the recording and/or reading means on four corners of the base; ~~and~~

four supporting means disposed in the four receiving portions, at least one of the four supporting means comprising a support piece and an adjusting piece adapted to adjust an elasticity of the support piece,

wherein the disc rotation driving means, the recording and/or reading means, and the feeding mechanism are located on the base such that a center of gravity of the base lies along the center line.

2. (Previously Presented) The disc drive according to claim 1, wherein the single metal plate is 1.4 mm to 1.8 mm in thickness.

3. (Original) The disc drive according to claim 1, wherein the disc rotation driving means and the recording and/or reading means are disposed on one side of the base relative to the center line, while the feeding mechanism is disposed on the other side of the base.

4. (Currently Amended) The disc drive according to claim 1, wherein ~~each of the receiving portions receives a supporting means with~~ the supporting piece comprises an elastic member ~~for adapted to~~ elastically supporting support the base.

5. (Currently Amended) The disc drive according to claim 4, wherein ~~at least one a first~~ of the four supporting means has a first supporting elasticity and is disposed near the disc rotation driving means, ~~while at least another one and a second~~ of the four supporting means has a second supporting elasticity different from the first supporting elasticity and is disposed away from the disc rotation driving means.

6. (Currently Amended) The disc drive according to claim 4, wherein ~~at least one a first~~ of the four supporting means is disposed near the disc rotation driving means and supports the base at one height relative to a reference plane, ~~while at least another one and a second~~ of the four supporting means is disposed away from the disc rotation driving means and supports the base at a different height relative to the reference plane.

7. (Original) The disc drive according to claim 1, wherein at least two of the receiving portions are disposed on each side of the base with respect to the center line.

8. (Currently Amended) An optical disc drive for recording data on and/or reproducing data from an optical disc, comprising:

a base made of a single flat metal plate that is rectangular in shape;

disc rotation driving means disposed on the base for rotating an optical disc loaded in the base;

an optical pickup disposed on the base ~~for recording~~ adapted to record data on and/or ~~reproducing~~ reproduce data from the optical disk;

guide means disposed on the base for movably supporting the optical pickup between inner and outer circumferences of the optical disc, while the optical disc is rotated;

a feeding mechanism disposed on the base ~~for feeding~~ adapted to feed the optical pickup along the guide means;

a plurality of supporting means each with an associated elastic member ~~for~~ adapted to elastically ~~supporting~~ support the base and an adjusting piece adapted to adjust an elasticity of the elastic member, the supporting means ~~and the associated elastic members~~ being disposed symmetrically on the base with respect to a center line of the base along the direction of the movement of the optical pickup;

four receiving portions disposed on four corners of the base for receiving the supporting means,

wherein the disc rotation driving means, the optical pickup, and the feeding mechanism are located on the base such that a center of gravity of the base lies along the center line.

9. (Previously Presented) The optical disc drive according to claim 8, wherein the single metal plate is 1.4 mm to 1.8 mm in thickness.

10. (Original) The optical disc drive according to claim 8, wherein the disc rotation driving means and the optical pickup are disposed on one side of the base relative to the center line, while feeding mechanism is disposed on the other side of the base.

11. (Original) The optical disc drive according to claim 8, wherein at least one of the supporting means has a first supporting elasticity and is disposed on the base near the disc rotation driving means, while at least another one of the supporting means has a second supporting elasticity different from the first supporting elasticity and is disposed on the base away from the disc rotation driving means.

12. (Original) The optical disc drive according to claim 11, wherein the supporting means disposed near the disc rotation driving means is supported at a different height relative to the supporting means disposed away from the disc rotation driving means.

13. (Original) The optical disc drive according to claim 8, wherein at least two of the supporting means are disposed on each side of the base with respect to the center line.

14. (Original) The optical disc drive according to claim 8, wherein at least two of the receiving portions are disposed on each side of the base with respect to the center line.

15. (Currently Amendment) An optical disc drive for recording data on and/or reproducing data from an optical disc, comprising:

a support pedestal;

a base made of a single flat metal plate that is rectangular in shape and has four receiving portions on four corners supported by the support pedestal;

disc rotation driving means disposed on the base for rotating an optical disc loaded in the base;

a disc tray movably disposed on the support pedestal between a first position where the optical disc is removable and a second position where the optical disc is at the disc rotation driving means;

an optical pickup disposed on the base ~~for recording~~ adapted to record data on and/or ~~reproducing~~ reproduce data from the optical disc;

guide means disposed on the base for movably supporting the optical pickup between inner and outer circumferences of the optical disc, while the optical disc is rotated;

a feeding mechanism disposed on the base ~~for feeding~~ adapted to feed the optical pickup along the guide means; and

a base support member for supporting the base with a plurality of supporting means disposed symmetrically with respect to a center line of the base along the direction of the

movement of the optical pickup and on the receiving portions of the base, each of the supporting means including an elastic member and an adjusting piece adapted to adjust an elasticity of the elastic member,

wherein the disc rotation driving means, the optical pickup, and the feeding mechanism are located on the base such that a center of gravity of the base lies along the center line.

16. (Previously Presented) The optical disc drive according to claim 15, wherein the single metal plate is 1.4 mm to 1.8 mm in thickness.

17. (Original) The optical disc drive apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the disc rotation driving means and the optical pickup are disposed on one side of the base relative to the center line, while the feeding mechanism is disposed on the other side of the base.

18. (Original) The optical disc drive according to claim 15, wherein at least one of the supporting means has a first supporting elasticity and is disposed on the base near the disc rotation driving means, while at least another one of the supporting means has a second supporting elasticity different from the first supporting elasticity and is disposed on the base away from the disc rotation driving means.

19. (Original) The optical disc drive according to claim 18, wherein the supporting means disposed near the disc rotation driving means is supported at a different height relative to the supporting means disposed away from the disc rotation driving means.

20. (Original) The optical disc drive according to claim 15, wherein the base support member is pivotably supported around the support pedestal, thereby allowing the base support member to move towards and away from the disc tray as the disc tray moves between the first position and the second position.

21. (Original) The optical disc drive according to claim 15, wherein at least two of the supporting means are disposed on each side of the base with respect to the center line.

22. (Currently Amended) An optical disc drive for accurately recording data on and/or reproducing data from an optical disc, comprising:

a base made of a single flat metal plate that is rectangular in shape and has four receiving portions on four corners;

disc rotation driving means disposed on the base for rotating an optical disc loaded in the base;

an optical pickup disposed on the base ~~for recording~~ adapted to record data on and/or ~~reproducing~~ reproduce data from the optical disc;

guide means disposed on the base for movably supporting the optical pickup between inner and outer circumferences of the optical disc, while the optical disc is rotated;

a feeding mechanism disposed on the base ~~for feeding~~ adapted to feed the optical pickup along the guide means;

a plurality of supporting means disposed on the base with an associated elastic member ~~for~~ adapted to elastically ~~supporting~~ support the base and an adjusting piece adapted to adjust an elasticity of the elastic member, the supporting means ~~and the associated elastic members~~ being disposed symmetrically on the base with respect to a center line of the base along the direction of the movement of the optical pickup and on the receiving portions of the base;

whereby weight shifts or imbalances caused by optical pickup movement are eliminated such that the balance of the base is maintained along the direction of movement during operation of the optical disc drive.

23. (Original) The optical disc drive according to claim 22, wherein the disc rotation driving means, the optical pickup and the feeding mechanism are disposed on the base in such a way that their total weight is essentially evenly distributed on the base.

24. (Original) The optical disc drive according to claim 22, wherein at least two of the supporting means are disposed on each side of the base with respect to the center line.

25. (Currently Amended) An optical disc drive for recording data on and/or reproducing data from an optical disc, comprising:

a base made of a single flat metal plate that is rectangular in shape and has four receiving portions on four corners;

disc rotation driving means disposed on the base for rotating an optical disc loaded in the base;

an optical pickup disposed on the base ~~for recording~~ adapted to record data on and/or ~~reproducing~~ reproduce data from the optical disc;

guide means disposed on the base for movably supporting the optical pickup between inner and outer circumferences of the optical disc, while the optical disc is rotated;

a feeding mechanism disposed on the base ~~for feeding~~ adapted to feed the optical pickup along the guide means; and

at least four supporting means each with an associated elastic member ~~for~~ adapted to elastically ~~supporting~~ support the base and an adjusting piece adapted to adjust an elasticity of the elastic member, the supporting means ~~and the associated elastic members~~ being disposed symmetrically on the base with respect to a center line of the base along the direction of the movement of the optical pickup and on the receiving portions of the base,

wherein the disc rotation driving means, the optical pickup, and the feeding mechanism are located on the base such that a center of gravity of the base lies along the center line.

26. (Original) An optical disc drive according to claim 25, wherein at least two of the supporting means are disposed on each side of the base with respect to the center line.

27. (New) The disc drive according to claim 1, wherein the adjusting piece comprises a spring.

28. (New) The disc drive according to claim 27, wherein the spring comprises a helical spring.

29. (New) The disc drive according to claim 28, wherein the support piece comprises an elastic support piece formed of an elastic material.

30. (New) The optical disc drive according to claim 8, wherein at least one of the adjusting pieces comprises a spring.

31. (New) The optical disc drive according to claim 30, wherein the spring comprises a helical spring.

32. (New) The optical disc drive according to claim 15, wherein at least one of the adjusting pieces comprises a spring.

33. (New) The optical disc drive according to claim 32, wherein the spring comprises a helical spring.

34. (New) The optical disc drive according to claim 22, wherein at least one of the adjusting pieces comprises a spring.

35. (New) The optical disc drive according to claim 34, wherein the spring comprises a helical spring.

36. (New) The optical disc drive according to claim 25, wherein at least one of the adjusting pieces comprises a spring.

37. (New) The optical disc drive according to claim 36, wherein the spring comprises a helical spring.